

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (currently amended). An accessory rack for supporting small boats on a transporting vehicle having available a front platform site extending generally across a width of a front of said vehicle and a rear platform site extending generally across a width of a rear of said vehicle, said accessory rack sites comprising:

a front assembly having an elongated front bottom base member attachable across a width of said front platform site and a rear assembly having an elongated rear bottom base member attachable across a width of said rear platform site, each said assembly including a bottom base member connectable to a said platform site,

a single front an upright post connected at a lower end to the center of said front bottom base member of said front assembly so that said front upright post is generally centered with respect to said width of said vehicle,

an elongated front boat-receiving cross member connected at the center thereof to an upper end of said single front upright post, said elongated front boat-receiving cross member being generally parallel to said elongated front bottom base member having a top end and a bottom end and a boat receiving cross member connected at a central location to the top of the post;

a single rear upright post connected at a lower end to the center of said rear bottom base member of said rear assembly so that said rear upright post is generally centered with respect to said width of said vehicle,

an elongated rear boat-receiving cross member connected at the center thereof to an upper end of said single rear upright post, said elongated rear boat-receiving cross member being generally parallel to said elongated rear bottom base member;

a an single elongated upper beam member extending between said front boat-receiving cross member and said rear boat-receiving cross member, said elongated upper beam member connected to said center of said front boat-receiving cross member and said center of said rear boat-receiving cross member so that said front upright post, said rear upright post and said upper beam member are generally centered over respective portions of said vehicle each of said cross members at said central location thereof.

2 (currently amended). The accessory rack as defined in claim 1 wherein each of said front upright post and said rear upright post further comprises:

a lower upright post portion attached to said center of a respective one of said elongated front bottom base member and said elongated rear bottom base member,

an upper upright post portion attached to said center of a respective one of said front boat-receiving cross member and said rear boat-receiving cross member, each said lower upright post portion and said upper upright post portion configured to be removably and adjustably engagable with each other so that said boat-receiving cross member is locked at a selected height over said vehicle and generally centered over said vehicle

~~with respect to said vehicle width posts and said members are made of rectangular metal tubing.~~

3 (currently amended). The accessory rack as defined in claim 2 wherein
~~said front boat-receiving cross member and said rear boat-receiving cross member each of said boat receiving members~~ has an upturned arm at each end.

4 (currently amended). The accessory rack as defined in claim 2 [3] wherein each of said lower post portion and said upper post portion are constructed of rectangular or square metal tubing, and each provided with vertical posts includes overlapping tubing of different sizes and a series of alignable, vertically spaced-apart holes to allow a locking member to be inserted through said lower post portion and said upper post portion, locking said boat-receiving cross member at said selected height defined therein enabling connecting bolts to be inserted at different heights.

5 (original). The accessory rack as defined in claim 4 wherein said transporting vehicle is an ATV.

6 (currently amended). The accessory rack as defined in claim 5 wherein said front bottom base member and said rear bottom base member extends across a width of each said platform site, and are attachable thereto said bottom base

~~member is connected to said platform~~ with U-bolts.

7 (cancelled).

8 (cancelled).

9 (new). An accessory rack as set forth in claim 2 wherein each said upper post portion and said boat-receiving cross member further comprises:

an elongated middle portion generally parallel to said bottom base member and connected at the center thereof to said upper end of said upper post portion, said elongated middle portion having opposed ends,

a boat-receiving end portion for each of said opposed ends, each said boat-receiving end portion configured to be removably and adjustably engaged, and lockable with a respective end of said middle portion to provide said cross member with a selected width,

a stub portion attached to said center of said middle portion, and facing an opposite one of said first assembly and said second assembly for removably and slidably receiving and locking to said upper beam member, said stub portion being coplanar with and perpendicular to said middle portion, and said upper beam member and each said stub portion being adaptable so that a user may select a length of said rack for a specific said vehicle.

10 (new). An accessory rack as set forth in claim 9 wherein each said middle

portion is about 2 feet in length, and extends about one foot to either side of a top of a respective said upper post portion.

11 (new). An accessory rack as set forth in claim 9 wherein said lower upright post portion is about 1 foot in height.

12 (new). An accessory rack as set forth in claim 11 wherein each said upper post portion may be adjusted and locked within said lower post portion at a height so that a top of said upper post portion and said elongated middle portion is about 3 feet over said vehicle.

13 (new). An accessory rack as set forth in claim 9 wherein said front bottom base member is about 33 inches in length and said rear bottom base member is about 43 inches in length.

14 (new). An accessory rack as set forth in claim 9 wherein said upright post portion may be adjusted and locked within said lower post portion so that a top of said upper post portion is about 4 feet over said vehicle.

15 (new). An accessory rack as set forth in claim 14 wherein said front bottom base member and said rear bottom base member are both about 43 inches in length, each end of said front bottom base member and said rear bottom base member being attached to a floor bed of a pickup truck.

16 (new). An accessory rack as set forth in claim 9 further comprising a plurality of gear attachments attached to said rack, each said gear attachment having an opening for receiving a tie-down, and attached adjacent at least one of:

a center of each said elongated middle portion,
at least one end of said front mounting base member and at least one end of said rear mounting base member,
at an upper end of each said lower upright post portion.

17 (new). An accessory rack for carrying a boat, other elongated objects, and the like lengthwise over a middle portion of a vehicle wherein the vehicle is provided with a front cargo rack for carrying gear over a front of the vehicle and a rear cargo rack for carrying gear over a rear of the vehicle, the front cargo rack and rear cargo rack being generally centered widthwise on the vehicle, said accessory rack comprising:

a front end assembly mounted to said front cargo rack and a rear end assembly mounted to said rear cargo rack, each further comprising:

mounting means for removably mounting said front end assembly and said rear end assembly to a respective said front cargo rack and said rear cargo rack,

a single, adjustable-in-height vertical support means attached to said mounting means so that said single, adjustable-in-height vertical

support means is generally centered widthwise with respect to said cargo rack, and thereby over a middle of a respective front or rear of said vehicle,

elongated horizontal support means attached at a center thereof to a top of said single, adjustable-in-height vertical support means, said elongated horizontal support means oriented to extend widthwise over a respective front or rear of said vehicle, for receiving a boat or other elongate objects,

connection means connected between said center of said elongated horizontal support means of said front end assembly and said center of said elongated horizontal support means of said rear end assembly, and extending lengthwise over a middle of said vehicle, for connecting said front end assembly and said rear end assembly together,

whereby a boat, other elongate objects or the like are supported lengthwise over a middle of said vehicle by a said single, adjustable-in-height vertical support means over a front portion of said vehicle and a said single vertical support means over a rear portion of said vehicle.

18 (new). An accessory rack as set forth in claim 17 wherein each said single vertical support means further comprises:

a first vertical support portion means attached to said mounting means so that said first vertical support portion means is generally centered widthwise on said cargo rack,

second vertical support portion means lockably, removably and

adjustably engaging said first vertical support portion means, for locking said second vertical support portion means at a selected height over a respective said front or rear of said vehicle, and for being removable, said first vertical support portion means and said second vertical support portion means being locked together at said selected height, forming said single, adjustable-in-length vertical support means.

19 (new). An accessory rack as set forth in claim 18 wherein each said elongated horizontal support means further comprises:

elongated middle portion support means having opposed ends and attached at said center thereof to an upper end of said second vertical support means, for supporting a boat, other elongate objects or the like by said second vertical support means,

end portion means removably, lockably and adjustably engaging each end of said opposed ends of said middle portion support means, for locking said elongated horizontal support means at a selected width and for being removable.

20 (new). An accessory rack as set forth in claim 19 wherein said connection means further comprises:

a single short connection means attached to said center of each said elongated middle portion support means, each said single short connection means being in facing relation,

an elongated, single connection means connected at one end to said single short connection means of said elongated middle portion support means of said front end assembly and the other end of said elongated single connection means connected to said short connection means of said elongated middle portion support means of said rear end assembly, whereby said front end assembly and said rear end assembly are connected together and stabilized, and said elongated single connection means extends lengthwise over a middle of said vehicle.

21 (new). An accessory rack as set forth in claim 20 further comprising a plurality of strengthening means attached between each said mounting means and a respective said first vertical support means, between each said elongated middle portion support means and respective said vertical support means, and respective said short connection means.

22 (new). A method for carrying a boat above a vehicle comprising:

mounting a first single vertical support so that said first single vertical support extends upward over a middle of a front of said vehicle, said middle being with respect to width of said vehicle,

mounting a second single vertical support so that said second single vertical support extends upward over said middle of a rear of said vehicle,

providing a first boat-receiving member to an end of said first single vertical support, said first boat-receiving member being horizontally disposed

along said width of said vehicle and attached at its center to said top of said first vertical support,

providing a second boat-receiving member to an end of said second vertical support, said second boat-receiving member being horizontally disposed along said width of said vehicle,

using a connecting member, connecting said first boat-receiving member and said second boat-receiving member together, said connecting member extending over said middle of said vehicle.

23 (new). A method as set forth in claim 22 further comprising adjusting a height of said first boat-receiving member over said vehicle and said second boat-receiving member over said vehicle to accommodate height of an operator of said vehicle.

24 (new). A method as set forth in claim 22 further comprising adjusting a width of said first boat-receiving member and said second boat-receiving member to accommodate boats of differing widths.